

## FUNGI AT WOODSTOCK, NEW YORK

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Dr. John A. Kingsbury, formerly Commissioner of Charities of New York, invited me to spend Labor Day with him and his family at their summer home in Woodstock, where so many artists live and where the woods are just now beginning to show their annual crop of mushrooms.

Leaving the train at Rhinecliff and crossing by ferry to Kingston, I found Dr. Kingsbury waiting for me with his car shortly after ten o'clock Sunday night, and we drove to Woodstock in about forty minutes. Monday was a very full day for mushroom enthusiasts and other nature-lovers. A number of us explored the woods in a body and found over a hundred species, most of them fleshy and harmless. The Kingsbury children are exceedingly expert and it was delightful to hear their innocent tongues twisting so sweetly and confidently about such jaw-breaking names as "*Polyporus sulphureus*," "*Hydnum repandum*," "*Hypholoma perplexum*," "*Amanita phalloides*," "*Clitocybe illudens*," "*Fistulina hepatica*," and many others with which they were perfectly familiar.

The display of these specimens on tables in a huge room, set off with backgrounds of mosses and ferns was left to the artists, who did their part remarkably well. Dinner was served to about forty people in this same room, and was followed by an address by me on edible and poisonous mushrooms, illustrated with the freshly gathered specimens. A few general remarks were first made on the subject of fungi and references made to the chestnut canker, apple rust, black knot of plum, blister rust of white pine, wheat rust, oat smut, etc.

The principal edible and poisonous groups of fungi were then discussed and suggestions made as to how to distinguish them. Attention was called particularly to the two most deadly species, *Amanita phalloides*, or the "destroying angel," and *Amanita muscaria*, the "fly agaric," which are accountable for most of the fatalities connected with mushroom eating. The puffballs, coral-fungi, and certain other groups were shown to be entirely harmless, easily recognizable, and valuable additions to our menu.

It happened that four giant puffballs were growing at the time in Dr. Kingsburys' yard, a few feet from where we were gathered.

These were examined with great care and interest and their history detailed to us by Dr. Kingsbury, who had cut off sundry slices from their expansive tops. At the close of the address. Dr. Kingsbury also staged a very effective dénouement by turning out all the artificial lights and allowing several clusters of *Clitocybe illudens* suspended above us to shine forth in their weird, ghost-like glory. This brilliant orange fungus has the power of phosphorescence and I have succeeded in reading a newspaper with the help of its light.

On Tuesday, I drove with Dr. Kingsbury and his family about fifty miles westward to Yama Farms, where we had luncheon and spent some time hunting for fungi about Jenny Brook, where the trout are bred. Here we found a number of additional interesting forms to add to those already secured at Woodstock, among them a beautiful yellow *Amanita* named in honor of Charles Frost, the shoemaker botanist. We also found a "fairy ring" thirty feet in diameter containing scores of gemmed puffballs of unusual size. In the Middle West, the giant puffball sometimes grows in giant "fairy rings"!

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#### SHORTER ARTICLES

ONOBRYCHIS ONOBRYCHIS (L.) RYDB. IN THE EASTERN UNITED STATES.—This Eurasian plant was collected at Fort Howard, Wisconsin, as early as June 15, 1882. How it was introduced there seems not to have been recorded. In the meantime it became an important fodder-plant in the Rocky Mountain region. Its widespread use as a fodder plant resulted in its prompt naturalization in the vicinity where it was cultivated. Thus it was scattered through the Rocky Mountain States, and it has been found in British Columbia. Within the past decade it has been found along railroads in Missouri. More recently wild plants have been collected in New York. Specimens came to The New York Botanical Garden last year from Dr. Anna E. Perkins with a note to the effect that they were gathered in Gowanda, New York, June 1st, 1922. The colony was first discovered by Dorothy Raymond, a school girl of Gowanda in 1919. The plants originated from the seeds brought to Gowanda in imported hides.